

PAINTING WITH ACRYLICS

Instructor: Lisa Marder

SUPPLY LIST

(We will review this list in class the first day if you want to wait to buy your supplies.)

*There are many different kinds of acrylic paints, paint mediums, and brushes that are available on the art market, but we will try to keep it simple, start out with basics, and go on from there as the need or desire arises for something more. You will eventually determine what your personal preferences are. Locally, I generally buy my supplies at Michael's. They have a good selection. In Boston I like to go to DickBlick, near the Fenway, or Utrechts, right across the street from Symphony Hall. There are also a number of websites from which you can order supplies – www.Michaels.com; www.Liquitex.com; www.goldenpaints.com; www.utrechtart.com; www.dickblick.com, to name a few; and a great warehouse in Avon, MA – The Art Experience – which sells professional artist materials at reasonable prices.

But for starters, I would suggest the following:

Paints (one of each) (Liquitex Basics are the least expensive at Michaels. They generally have less pigment in them. I typically buy Golden or Liquitex Professional High Viscosity. Michael's also carries Windsor-Newton)

Ultramarine blue (2 oz tube)
Cerulean blue (2 oz tube)
Cadmium Yellow medium (2 oz tube)
Primary Yellow or Hansa Yellow Light (2 oz tube)
Cadmium Red medium (2 oz tube)
Alizarin Crimson Hue (2 oz tube)
Hooker's Green Hue or Viridian (2 oz tube)
Burnt Sienna (2 oz tube)
Burnt Umber (2 oz tube)
Yellow Oxide (2 oz tube)
Dioxazine Purple or other dark purple (2 oz tube)
Titanium White (4.65 oz tube)
Ivory or Mars Black (4.65 oz tube)

Other colors you will probably want at some point are:

Medium Magenta
Phthalo Blue
Cadmium Orange

1 jar of Acrylic Gesso (to prime the painting surface)

Brushes – I would buy at least 3 medium-sized brushes to start off - one flat, one round, one filbert (#8), a smaller brush for detail (#2) and a larger brush for large-scale (#12).

Brushes can be bristle, sable, or nylon. You could try one of each to see what the difference is, if you like. Softer brushes are good for washes without showing the brush mark, firmer brushes are good for loading with paint and painting thickly. Sable is the most expensive, nylon the least. I tend to like bristle.

Also, one 2" nylon brush from the hardware store for priming painting surfaces.

NB: Cheap brushes tend to lose their hairs in your painting, which can be annoying, so it is worth buying good brushes.

Painting Surfaces

There are many options, including stretched canvas, canvas paper (i.e, 18"x 24" pad), thick paper (ie. pad of Bristol board), cardboard, mat board, masonite

Please at least have a pad of watercolor paper 18"x24" to work on. You can paint directly on it with acrylic or prime it with gesso first. This makes a nice surface - the paint goes on more smoothly and is not absorbed into the surface if you gesso it first.

Other items

1 palette knife

1 large plastic palette or disposable palette paper. You can also use paper plates or other non absorbent surface like plexiglass. I find disposable palette paper to be very convenient, but paper plates work just fine.

Apron or smock

sketchbook (i.e., 8x10) and soft pencil for drawing

Cans or tubs for water

Rags

Plant mister/spray bottle – to keep paints from drying out as you work